

OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH  
142 Prospect Street  
Gloucester  
Essex  
Massachusetts

HABS MA-1317  
*MA-1317*

PHOTOGRAPHS

PAPER COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### OUR LADY OF GOOD VOYAGE CHURCH

HABS No. MA-1317

**Location:** 142 Prospect Street, Gloucester, Essex County, Massachusetts

**Significance:** Our Lady of Good Voyage Church is significant for its role in the Portuguese community of Gloucester, Massachusetts, and for its carillon, the first installed in the United States. The church was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

**Description:** According to the National Register nomination, the stucco-covered building is made up of two structures: the two-story church and the three-story rectory. The Mission-style church, modeled after a church on the island of San Miguel in the Azores, is cruciform in plan. The front façade is flanked by two bell towers and features a rose window over the main entrance and a statue of Our Lady of Good Voyage on a pedestal. Originally, the L-shaped rectory was a single family residence dating to 1872-1884. It was added to the northwest corner of the church in 1914 and heavily renovated. A two-story enclosed porch was added to the rectory's south façade in 1950.<sup>1</sup>

**History:** Gloucester's Portuguese population "petitioned the Boston See for the establishment of a parish to be dedicated to Our Lady of Good Voyage" in 1888, which was granted in 1889. A plot of land on Prospect Street was purchased and a temporary building erected while fundraising took place. In July 1893, Our Lady of Good Voyage Church was dedicated and became a center of the Portuguese community. The church burned down in February 1914. Architect Halfdan M. Hanson was retained to design the new church, which incorporated the already existing rectory building. Henry Dana Sleeper designed the interior. The church was dedicated on May 23, 1915.<sup>2</sup>

In 1922, a carillon was installed, the first in the United States. John Taylor and Company of Loughborough, England, manufactured the carillon, which was equipped with thirty-one bells donated by individuals and groups. The carillon weighed 28,000 pounds total, with the heaviest bell weighing 2,826 pounds.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Kim Withers Brengle, Alice R. Krueger, and Anne Tait, "Our Lady of Good Voyage Church," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, November 3, 1989, Section 7; Kitty Parsons, *The Story of the Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage in Gloucester, Massachusetts* (North Montpelier, VT: The Driftwind Press, 1945), p. 7; "Our Lady of Good Voyage Church," in Maritime History of Massachusetts, A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary. Available at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/maritime/lad.htm>, accessed May 5, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Parsons, *Story of the Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage*, p. 7; Brengle, Krueger, and Tait, "Our Lady of Good Voyage Church," Section 8.

<sup>3</sup> Parsons, p. 11.

**Sources:** Brengle, Kim Withers, Alice R. Krueger, and Anne Tait. "Our Lady of Good Voyage Church." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, November 3, 1989. Listed May 10, 1990.

"Our Lady of Good Voyage Church," in Maritime History of Massachusetts, A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary. Available at <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/maritime/lad.htm>, accessed May 5, 2009.

Parsons, Kitty. *The Story of Our Lady of Good Voyage in Gloucester, Massachusetts*. North Montpelier, VT: The Driftwind Press, 1945.

**Historian:** Data compiled by Justine Christianson, HAER Historian, 2009

### **Project**

**Information:** The Council of American Maritime Museums funded the Gloucester Waterfront Survey project, which included documentation of Our Lady of Good Voyage Church. Todd Croteau, Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Architect, managed the project as part of the HAER Maritime Program. John Taguiri produced the large format photographs in 2008.